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JAN 15 1973

Mr. Edward J. Bauser
Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

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Dear Mr. Bauser:

This is a follow-up report to our letter of October 5, 1972, in which we discussed the discovery of a case of acute leukemia in a 19-year-old male, Ikoj Anjain, during the survey of the Marshallese by Dr. Robert Conard's medical team in September 1972. At the time of our letter the boy was under treatment at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health. Treatment for leukemia at the Clinical Center is among the best available in the nation. He failed to respond to treatment, developed septicemia and pneumonia and died on November 15, 1972. Preliminary autopsy findings confirmed the leukemia and pneumonia. His body was returned to Rongelap in the company of his parents who were with him at the time of his death. During the funeral service, John Anjain, the father, reportedly expressed his appreciation for the excellent medical care given his son. The loss of this boy was felt keenly by all persons associated with this project.

In view of the difficulties encountered by Dr. Conard's team in carrying out the medical survey last spring, there was concern as to possible repercussions of the leukemia death on relations of the survey team with the Marshallese. As yet, there is no indication of an adverse effect of the case on such relations. Two members of the Brookhaven staff, Dr. Knud Knudsen and Mr. William Scott, were on hand at the funeral in addition to Mr. Peter Coleman, Assistant High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, and Mr. Oscar DeBrum, District Administrator of the Marshall Islands. In view of this case, plans are being developed for interim six-month examinations of the blood of the Rongelap people to supplement the regular complete annual medical survey.

The 19- and 29-year-old girls, mentioned in our report of September 8, 1972, as having thyroid nodules, underwent surgery at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital on November 14, 1972. In one case,

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Mr. Edward J. Bauser

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the nodules were definitely benign. A nodule in the second case was suspected of being malignant at surgery, but its pathologic status has not been resolved as yet. The diseased thyroid lobe was removed at surgery in each case. The prognosis is excellent for both and the girls have returned to Rongelap.

We have been alerted by Dr. Conard to the likelihood that the Congress of Micronesia will seek additional compensation for persons exposed to radioactive fallout on the Marshall Islands. P.L. 88-485, which provided financial compensation to the inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll, was enacted in August 1964, prior to the appearance of thyroid lesions and the recent fatal leukemia case; it specified that such payment shall be "in full settlement and discharge of all claims against the United States arising out of the thermo-nuclear detonation of November 1, 1954."

We will keep you informed of further developments in these matters.

Sincerely,

S. G. ...

For General Manager

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